

REMARKS

This application is submitted as a US National Phase Application of PCT Application No. PCT/IL2005/000138, filed on February 4, 2005.

The present amendments are based on the claims submitted with the Demand as filed in the PCT application under Article 31 of the PCT. The application contains 55 claims of which claims 1 and 46 are amended.

The Written Opinion indicated that claims 1-17 and 40-55 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) in view of US 6,035,456 to *Rogozinski*. Applicant disagrees with this indication, as not all of the limitations of these claims are taught by *Rogozinski*. For example, *Rogozinski* is primarily directed to a lifting and support system for a patient. Some embodiments of *Rogozinski* allow the patient to be seated, standing or lying down. However, using the lifting and support system to actually exercise the patient is not described. Furthermore, there is no description of gait rehabilitation or rehabilitating more than one gait element at once. As a result, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Rogozinski*.

Other independent claims 9, 40 and 46 are also novel in view of *Rogozinski* for various related or other reasons. *Rogozinski* does not describe detecting or recording positions of gait elements, displaying them or exercising them based on the display (exemplary limitations of claim 9). *Rogozinski* also does not describe an apparatus or method for gait training which includes an element to move a foot of the patient, such as a pedal, in combination with a chair and a motor to tilt the chair (exemplary limitations of claim 40 and 46). Because the independent claims 1, 9, 40 and 46 are novel in view of *Rogozinski*, so are the claims that depend on them.


The Written Opinion also indicated that claims 18-39 were lacking in novelty in view of US 6,645,126 to *Martin et al.* (“*Martin*”). Applicant disagrees with this indication since not all of the limitations of these claims are taught by *Martin*. Briefly, *Martin* describes the use of a treadmill to assist with patient gait rehabilitation. All rehabilitation of the patient is performed using the treadmill, while the patient is standing. There is no description of using a motorized pedal in the patient’s rehabilitation (an exemplary limitation of claims 18 and 19). There is also no description of a motor adapted to move the patient from a sitting position to a standing position (an exemplary limitation of claim 39), since no chair is involved with using the treadmill. There is also no armpit support (an exemplary limitation of claim 39) used in conjunction with *Martin* as the figures and description indicate that the “unweighing system”

uses a harness that does not provide armpit support. As a result, independent claims 18, 19 and 39, and their dependent claims are novel in view of *Martin*.

Applicant has recently become aware of a document, US 2004/0172097 to *Brodard et al.* ("*Brodard*"), which was not part of the Search Report but which could be considered by the Examiner to be relevant to the present application. Applicant notes that *Brodard* is concerned with rehabilitating only the legs of a patient and not comprehensively the whole body, as is sometimes desirable. *Brodard* also seems to describe rehabilitation where the patient is either laying down on a rehabilitation apparatus or is merely standing next to the rehabilitation apparatus and using the apparatus for support, exercise being performed while wearing a lower body exoskeleton which only provides motion in a single plane. Claim 1 of the present application has been amended to expedite prosecution and to clarify that exercise can be achieved in more than a single plane, which more closely mimics real-world movement.

In view of the arguments and amendments included herein, it is believed that the claims are in a condition for allowance. An action on the merits is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,
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